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Written Rationale

The project I chose to do was a type of BuzzFeed list. BuzzFeed has a plethora of lists on their website that are normally along the lines of “25 Things Single People are Sick of Hearing” and “18 Reasons Why We Love Jennifer Lawrence”. I get sucked into this website for hours on end on a daily basis. Sarah’s meme presentation actually inspired me to do something fun and entertaining for my project, so I thought of things that were very time consuming and entertaining and BuzzFeed came into my mind. A BuzzFeed list is also a type of project that is very unique and different, and it will actually get the class’s attention unlike a poster or a power point, and I like to be different. That is how I decided to make a BuzzFeed List.

The hardest part of making the list was choosing a topic. I did not want to do a list that just talked about one of the readings because I felt like it would be redundant, but in hindsight I probably could have done a whole list on how much I despise Lily Bart. I was going to do “25 Things We Wish Would Have Happened This Semester’s Readings”. I did about half of that list and then I saw a really funny gif (the one of Ron Burgundy saying “I’m kind of a big deal”) and I wanted to use that for Willy Loman. Once I had that gif for Willy, I wanted to get a gif that reminded me of other characters as well like Lily and Jack. That meant that I would have to rename the list. I eventually just came up with “25 Things We Were All Thinking In Our AML2410 Readings This Semester”. That allowed me to be broader with my list, which is exactly what I needed because I am a very indecisive and can never make up my mind.

My project relates to the texts because the list consists of many gifs that either portray a feeling or reaction that I felt while reading or discussing the readings. Some of the gifs also reminded me exactly of some of the characters in the book, like Willy Loman, Jack Ladney, and Lily Bart. The list also relates the text to modern day reactions. For example on number 9 on the list it is a gif of “Clueless” and the best friend is saying, “There goes your social life”. This reminds me exactly of Lily’s situation with Selden. And although in House of Mirth none of her friends tell her that her social status will be compromised, she knows it will anyway. In modern times your friends are more straightforward and will tell you how it is. Also the movie “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”is very similar to White Noise, Willy Wonka is entertained by the chaos of what is happening in his factory and this is similar to White Noise because the characters are all infatuated with the disasters happening around them. Like I mentioned before, I would have focused on one reading that we had, but I just had much more fun having a broader topic and jumping around from reading to reading.

I think that the message my project is conveying to my audience is that all of the readings we encountered this semester can be related to something modern in a way. Everything we read is not outdated, we encounter many of these situations every day. We encounter mothers killing children on the news. We are sucked into the media like the characters in White Noise. Some people are shallow and will refuse to be associated with someone lesser than them. Not all parents are perfect (this applies to many novels but I was focusing on *Death of a Salesman* in this point). Sometimes people need material things to make them feel more educated in society like Jack Ladney. I know that when I wear my glasses or khakis I feel more professional. Most people are indecisive and can’t figure out what they want. Some people lie to themselves to feel better. At the end of the semester most students lie to themselves by saying, “Oh I studied enough, I will do great on this exam”. Which is normally a lie, well at least to me it is. I just tell myself I know enough in order for my brain to stop feeling guilty about not knowing everything I should. Anyways, my point is that all of the readings we read this semester are not outdated. There is a reason to read all of them. All of the readings this semester can apply to modern day society.